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# Farm Broadcasters Letter

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United States Department of Agriculture Office of Information Radio-Television Division Washington D.C. 20250 (202) 447-4330  
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Sept. 29, 1989



PRESIDENTIAL RADIO NEWS CONFERENCE -- President George Bush once again joined Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter in USDA's Radio Studio Sept. 22 for another radio news conference with farm broadcasters. USDA's Gary Crawford moderated and Brenda Curtis engineered. (USDA Photo by Byron Schumacher.)

OUTLOOK '90, USDA's 66th annual Outlook Conference, is scheduled for Nov. 28 - 30, in Washington, D.C. The program includes more than 30 sessions with over 70 speakers. Sec. Yeutter will deliver the keynote address. As usual, there will be a press room during the conference and copies of speeches will be available. Contact: Ray Bridge (202) 447-5447.

SIXTY PERCENT OF MUNICIPAL garbage could be recycled and 40 percent could be applied to crops, say scientists at Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in Blacksburg. "We're running out of space for landfills," says agronomist Dick Schmidt. The Tech researchers have been studying the impact of applying "heavy fraction" -- what's left after metals and paper are removed from garbage -- to soil on ground water and on turfgrass production. Contact: R.E. Schmidt (703) 231-9796.

COUNTRY RADIO SEMINAR -- The 21st annual Country Radio Seminar is scheduled for Feb. 28 - March 3, 1990, at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. The theme is "CRS 21-Road Map for the 90's." Contact: Frank Mull (615) 327-4487.

WHERE THE FARMERS ARE -- About 25 percent of the U.S. population lived in rural areas in 1988, while about 2 percent of the nation's total lived on farms. According to a report by the U.S. Commerce Department and USDA, the population has grown faster in rural areas than in urban areas since 1986. The largest share of the rural population -- 44 percent -- lives in the South. Contact: Mary Maher (202) 786-1512.

SHAGGY DOG STORY -- Ranchers are finding that guard dogs, specially bred to protect sheep from coyotes, wild dogs and other predators, are well worth their initial cost of about \$500 each, plus the money it takes to maintain them, a USDA scientist says. During the last ten years, USDA Wildlife Biologist Jeffrey S. Green says, "from 5,000 to 8,000 dogs have been used as guardians on as many as 4,000 ranches and farms throughout the United States and Canada." Contact: Jeffrey Green (208) 374-5306.

NEW FACT BOOK -- Agriculture is the Nation's largest employer -- about 21 million people work in some phase of ag. Farming itself employs roughly 2.1 million workers. Want more facts? Call Marci Hilt (202) 447-6445 for a copy of the "1989 Fact Book of Agriculture."

RURAL BRIDGES -- Rural bridges tend to be older than urban ones, and a higher percentage have functional or structural inadequacies, according to a recent USDA report. Although responsibility for rural bridges varies from state to state, local governments are responsible for a majority of the deficient or obsolete rural bridges, says Martin "Buzz" Fitzpatrick, Jr., administrator of USDA's Office of Transportation. For a copy of the report, "Rural Bridges: An Assessment Based Upon the National Bridge Inventory," call (202) 673-6305. Contact: Larry Mark (202) 447-3977.

MUSH NO MORE -- Crunchy canned green beans? Yes, says Food Chemist Malcolm Bourne. Bourne, who is with the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, developed a new treatment that restores most of the firmness and crispness now lost during commercial food canning. The reason so many canned goods end up mushy, he says, is the temperatures used today to blanch and sterilize commercial canned goods far exceed what's needed to achieve the tenderness most consumers want. Contact: Malcolm Bourne (315) 787-2278.

HOW TWO INCOME FAMILIES SPEND MONEY -- Two-earner families spend more money on shelter, says Carolyn McKinney, an Ohio State University family resource management specialist. She says this supports the evidence that it takes two full-time jobs to buy housing in many American communities. McKinney says families are eating more away from home. Contact: Carolyn McKinney (614) 292-2011.

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1686 -- A major National Research Council report on alternative agriculture says low input sustainable farming practices work. The council calls on the government to research and promote LISA. Gary Crawford presents the views of several of the NRC panel members and has reaction from a top USDA official. (Weekly reel of 13-1/2 min. documentary.)

CONSUMER TIME #1168 -- The unblemished truth about produce; food 2000; the controversial EBDC's; the pesticide issue; a gypsy moth killer. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 - 3 min. consumer features.)

AGRITAPE #1675 -- USDA News Highlights; trends in direct marketing; farm population; cleaner U.S. wheat; pearl millet. (Weekly reel of news features.)

NEWS FEATURE FIVE #1239 -- New flavor preservative; more palatable peanuts; tasteful science; pilot biocontrol project; root zone warfare. (Weekly reel of research feature stories.)

UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Fri., Oct. 13, world ag/grain production; world oilseed situation, world cotton situation; Mon., Oct. 16, milk production; Tues., Oct. 17, crop/weather update; Thurs., Oct. 19, dairy outlook; Fri., Oct. 20, catfish, cattle on feed, red meat production, ag outlook.

DIAL THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE (202) 488-8358 or 8359.  
Material changed at 5 p.m. EDT each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE

USDA TV NEWS SERVICE -- (Sept. 28, 30 & Oct. 2) USDA Undersecretary of Agriculture Richard Crowder on pork bellies to Poland; USDA disaster relief coordinator Vernon Morgan on disaster relief to U.S. Virgin Islands and South Carolina; USDA Meteorologist Ray Motha on Hurricane Hugo and crop conditions; USDA Economist Steve Milmoe on U.S. agricultural trade update; USDA Economist Merritt Padgett on agricultural resources; USDA Economist Peter Buzzanell on sugars & sweeteners; USDA economist Greg Gajewski on latest ag outlook.

AG UPDATE -- Eric Parsons talks with ASCS Specialist Brad Karmen about changes in the 1990 wheat program; Kathleen Katras interviews Rex Wright on the conservation reserve program.

FEATURES: Lynn Wyvill reports on research on diet & mothers' milkfat; Will Pemble reports on Africanized bees.

Available on satellite Westar IV, audio 6.2 or 6.8:

THURSDAY . . . . . 7:30-7:45 p.m., EDT, Transponder 12D  
SATURDAY . . . . . 10:30-11:15 a.m., EDT, Transponder 10D  
MONDAY . . . . . 8:30-9:15 a.m., EDT, Transponder 12D  
(Repeat of Saturday transmission)

OFF MIKE

LAST SPRING'S WEATHER caused growing conditions that are concerning farmers this month in sections of northern Ohio, Bob Ziegler (WIMA/WIMT, Lima) says. Wet spring delayed planting and now the corn crop needs another two weeks of warm weather. But, the first frost historically arrives the last week of September and temperatures have already dipped into the 30's. Bob says producers are keeping a wary eye on the southward-moving frost line.

HIGH WINDS and heavy rains from Hurricane Hugo caused extensive crop damage in the Carolinas, says Johnnie Hood (WPTF/Southern Farm Net, Raleigh, N.C.). Crop lodging and drowning have taken a toll. Early estimates indicate 30 percent of the cotton crop in southeastern North Carolina has been lost; nearly 80 percent near Orangeburg, S.C. Low-lying areas have been slow to drain due to high levels of ground moisture.

**Farm Broadcasters Letter**

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RAIN from the remnants of Hugo were welcomed in western New York where conditions have been dry, says Jeff Stewart (Ag Radio Net, Utica). Apple producers will likely benefit. Winds downed corn in some areas and harvest may be delayed due to wet ground conditions.

MAX STEWART has completed his move from KXOK, St. Louis, to SunStar Radio Network, Tampa Fla. Max hosts -- in St. Louis -- "Farm Talk," a two-hour program each Saturday and Sunday that is scheduled to become daily in early October.

FARM DEPARTMENT is going strong, says Dave Koffee, (Farm Director, WIBC, Indianapolis, Ind.) and plans are in the works to expand it. Dave has served at several Midwest stations including WIRE in Indianapolis and as program director at WHO in Des Moines.

*Brenda Curtis*  
BRENDA CURTIS  
DEPUTY CHIEF, Radio & TV Division